USA $2.00 [CANADA $2.50]

PEN AND INK COMICS

Wandering Star

Book Seven

In

memory

of

Jack Kirby

and

Don Thompson

Wandering Star

Book Seven (of Twelve)

by Teri S. Wood

Eek! I'm late. Sorry about that, but it's been the strangest last couple of months. Seems like every time I got a handle on things, something else happened. But anyway, I finally got here. Sorry to keep ya waiting.

So, let me tell you what all's been going on lately. Seems like all those CBG ads you've been doing finally paid off in a big way. WANDERING STAR has officially taken off. Sales for Book Seven doubled last issue's sales to a whole 3182 (!!!), and my orders for the 1-6 sets were over 1400!! Whoa, eh? Now, once I get all those printing costs taken care off, I should be doing pretty well.

Then there's been all these other things. I got that write-up in HEROES ILLUSTRATED (I loved that), and now WIZARD's Tom Palmer, of PALMER'S PICKS, is running a thing on WANDERING STAR. And remember that interview I told you about? With Jeff Mason for the Computer Board? Well, he sent a copy of it to Don and Maggie at the COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE and they liked it so well they want to run it in their newspaper. Hah! What a trip, eh?

But the icing on the cake came late March, when I get this call, right out of the blue, from Bob Kahan at DC Comics. He wanted to know if I'd like to team up with Terry Moore of STRANGERS IN PARADISE (a great and wonderful book, by the way) and do a Sandman picture for the MORPHEUS GALLERY BOOK. I think I handled that very well. I was calm, cool and collected when I told him I was very interested, yes indeedy, I was. Then, once the phone was safely on the hook I was hoping around the house going, "YES! YES! YES!"

I was happy to find out that Terry Moore felt pretty much the same way. Terry's a great guy, just in case you're interested. And he draws the most gorgeous pencils in the world. I was almost afraid to ink his Sandman one, it was just wonderful. Now, you all have to promise me, that when it comes out in August, to grab a copy. I am very, very, very, very, very, very proud of that picture. And a great big thank you to Neil Gaiman (Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!) for thinking of Terry and I when the opening came up.

Terry and I did discover something, though. We're going to have a hard time ever becoming famous comic book creators. You know why? 'Cuz all famous comic book creators go by their last names--Gaiman, Miller, Sim--and somebody already took our last names. Deep sigh.

So, are you wondering how I'm handling all this? Am I, like, dizzy from sheer joy, that sort of thing? Nope. This, you're never going to believe. One day I was sitting at home, just basking in the light of all of this stuff, when suddenly I got scared! Really, I'm serious. We're talking shaking from the top of your head to the tips of your toes scared. I wanted to chuck the whole ball of wax and run for the hills.

You see, I realized, silly as it may seem, that people are actually reading my book. Lots of people. And some of them are creators in the field that I worship the ground of. And I thought, "What if I mess up??? What if I blow it??? People are watching me now! Aaaaaah!"

Suddenly I was hyper-critical of everything I was doing on WANDERING STAR. I didn't like anything. Nothing seemed good enough. I started trashing pages left and right. No kidding.

This went on for about a month before I finally realized I was more worried about what people would think of what I was doing than the story itself: That did it. "I'm a creator." I told myself. "I'm going to create. I'm not going to worry about success or failure. I'm just going to worry about doing the very best that I can."

Whew.

What can I say? All creative people are just a little bit insane.

Well, I gotta get going. Book Eight is calling me. See ya then!

Teri S. Wood

P.S. Don't forget to say "Hi" to me if you're going to the San Diego Comic con!

P.S. the second: Oh, I still have some of those 1988 Small Press WANDERING STARs left for anyone who is thinking about getting a CBG ad to say that they like my book. Just drop me a postcard and let me know that you did.

P.S. the third: Oh yeah, Preston A. Sweet of Main Street Comics pointed out that my covers to Books Four and Five look really, really cool through a pair of 3-D glasses. I thought he was fooling, but, by gosh, the man's right! Hah! If you have a pair, make sure to check'em out!

P.S. the forth: One last thing. I finally gave up. The Horse Story is at the end of the letter's page. Enjoy!!!

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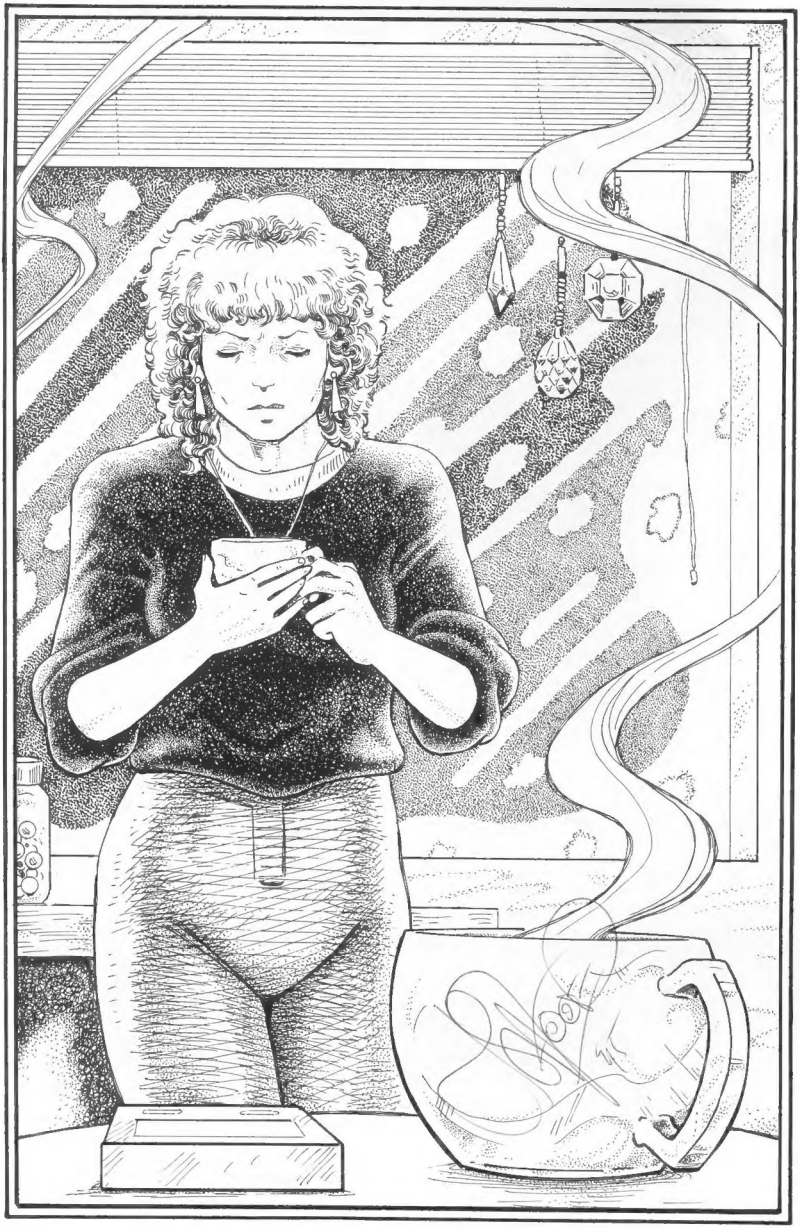


THIS...
...CERTAINLY ISN'T A STORY THAT GETS EASIER TO TELL AS IT GOES ON.
AH, ME.
MOOF!
OH, WHAT?
MMM MOOF-MOOF!
HAMLET...
...YOU'VE ALREADY HAD YOUR SNACKIE!
MMF!
"HAMLET?"
ISN'T THAT THE NAME OF A STORY WRITTEN BY AN ANCIENT EARTH PLAYWRIGHT?
OOO, ALDAR!
I'M IMPRESSED!
YES, IT WAS.
SHAKESPEARE.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I NAMED HIM THAT.
YOU SEE...
...OOF!

HE'S A CHUBBY LITTLE PIGGY...

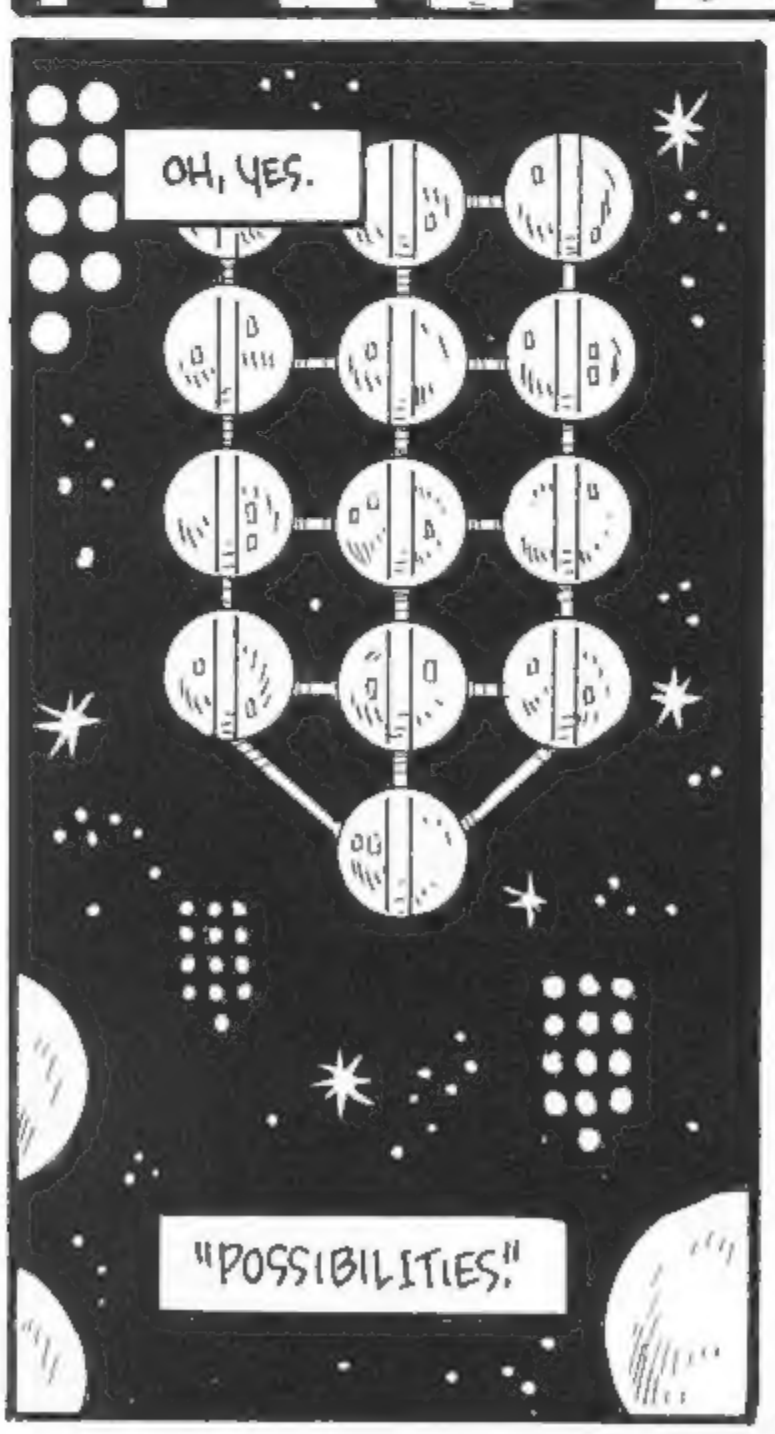
...SORT OF A...

...HAM-LET!

OH, I SEE.
UP ON EARTH'S LITERATURE...
...BUT NOT IT'S FARM ANIMALS, EH?
OH, WELL. IT WASN'T MUCH OF A JOKE ANYWAY.

RIGHT, HAMLET?

NOW,
WHERE WAS I?


OH, YES.
"POSSIBILITIES."

YOU CAN'T DENY THE POSSIBILITIES.
IF WE CAN WORK THIS KNOWLEDGE TO OUR ADVANTAGE, WE COULD CRIPPLE THE BONO KIRIAN FORCE HERE.

HELLO, CASANDRA.
HEY, HI, MADISON!
HOW'S JOEY?
SLEEPING.
HE WAS PRETTY BADLY BURNED, BUT HE'LL BE FINE. IT'S JUST THAT IT'S KINDA WEARING ON YOUR SYSTEM WHEN YOU SUDDENLY GO FROM STRESS AND PAIN TO RELIEF AND HEALING.
Ah.
YOU LOOK PRETTY BEAT YOURSELF.
Heh. I SUPPOSE.
IT WAS A LONG DAY AT THE HOSPITAL.
EVEN WITH ME JUST STABILIZING THE CRITICAL ONES, THERE WERE A LOT OF PATIENTS TO SEE TODAY.
BUT YOU KNOW SOMETHING? I REALLY DON'T MIND.
IT ISN'T LIKE THE ACADEMY, WITH ME DOING TRICKS FOR THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.
I'M ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING HERE.
I MEAN, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF THIS PSYCHIC STUFF AS A CURSE. ALL IT EVER DID WAS MESS WITH MY MIND AND COMPLICATE MY LIFE...
...BUT NOW I'M GLAD I CAN DO IT.
I'M SAVING LIVES!
Huh!
SO...
...WHAT'S UP?
GRAIKOR CALLED A MEETING ABOUT THOSE BONO KIRIAN SUPPLY SHIPS.

I JUST DON'T KNOW.

IT SOUNDS TOO EASY.

EASY?!

IT'S GOING TO TAKE A GOOD PART OF OUR FORCE TO DESTROY THOSE SHIPS!

NO.
THAT WON'T WORK EITHER, EKKEL.
WITH THOSE SHIPS TUCKED BEHIND KERRIS AND ALL HER MOONS...
THERE ARE JUST FAR TOO MANY PLACES THE BONO KIRO COULD HIDE.

WE COULDN'T BE SURE IT WAS SAFE.
MADISON?
YOU OKAY?

SHA PASK!
THIS IS JUST TOO FRUSTRATING!

HERE WE HAVE A WAY TO PUT THE BONO KIRIAN ARMADA AT A SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE —
— YOU CANNOT WAGE A LONG TERM OFFENSIVE WITHOUT THE SUPPLIES TO FEED AND ARM YOUR PEOPLE...
...Yet...

...DELA IS RIGHT.
IT COULD VERY WELL BE A TRAP...
...AS WELL AS AN OPPORTUNITY.
THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW WHICH.

I THINK...
...MAYBE THERE IS.

I COULD BE ON YOUR SCOUT SHIP.

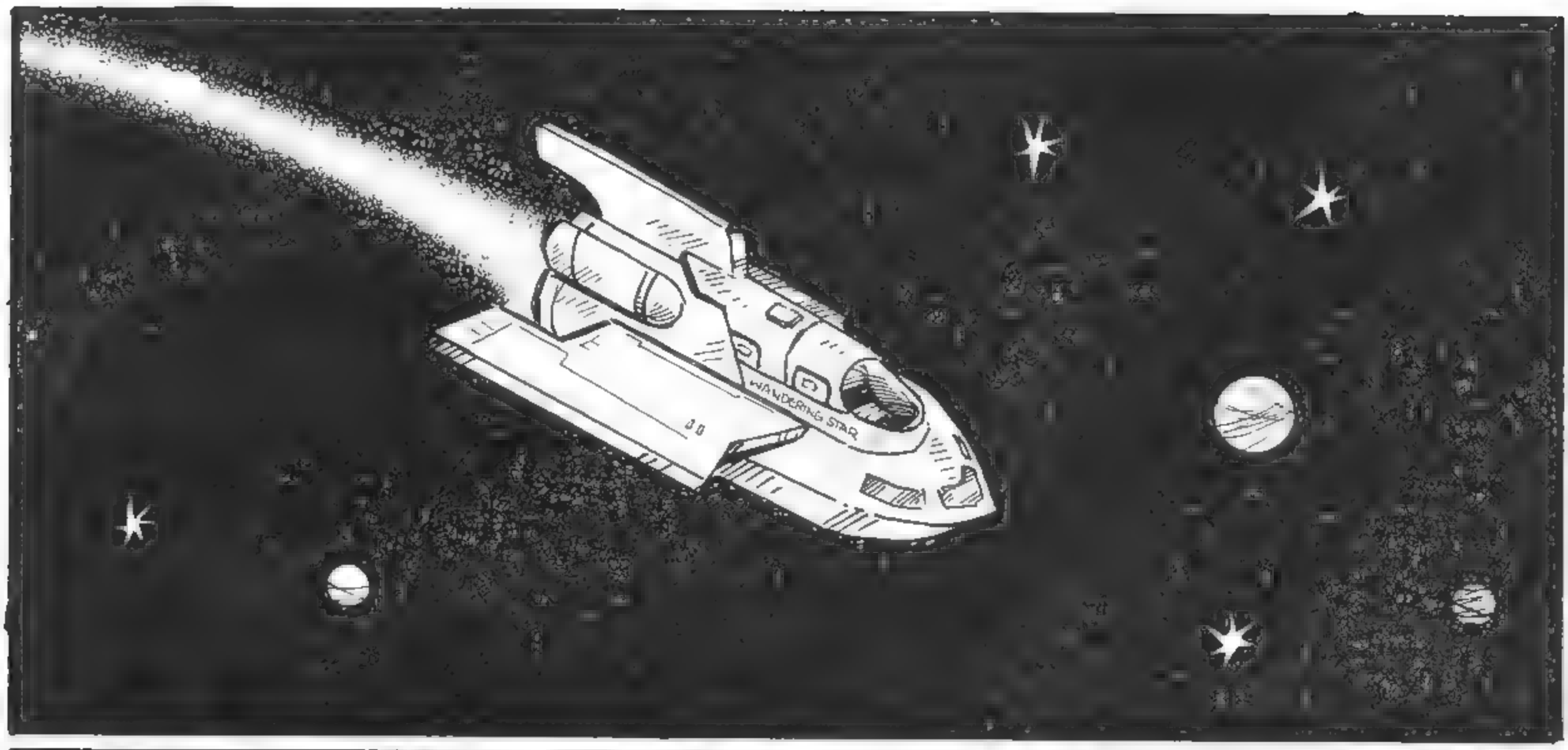
THE BONO KIRO COULDN'T HIDE THEIR SHIPS FROM ME.
THEY COULDN'T HIDE THEIR EMOTIONS FROM MY EMPATHY.

THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S PSYCHIC!
WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
THAT MIGHT WORK!

GRAIKOR, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
BUT, I...
...I CAN...

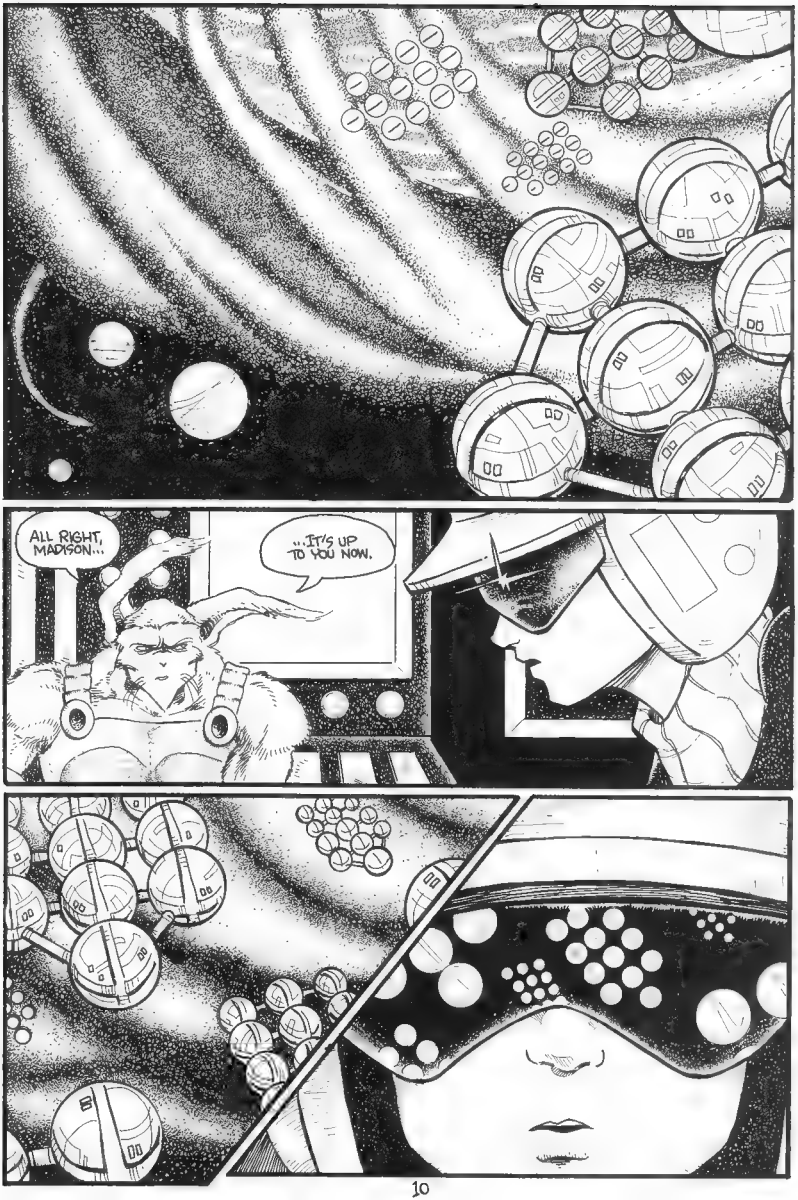
MADISON...
...I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO TELL YOU **NO**...

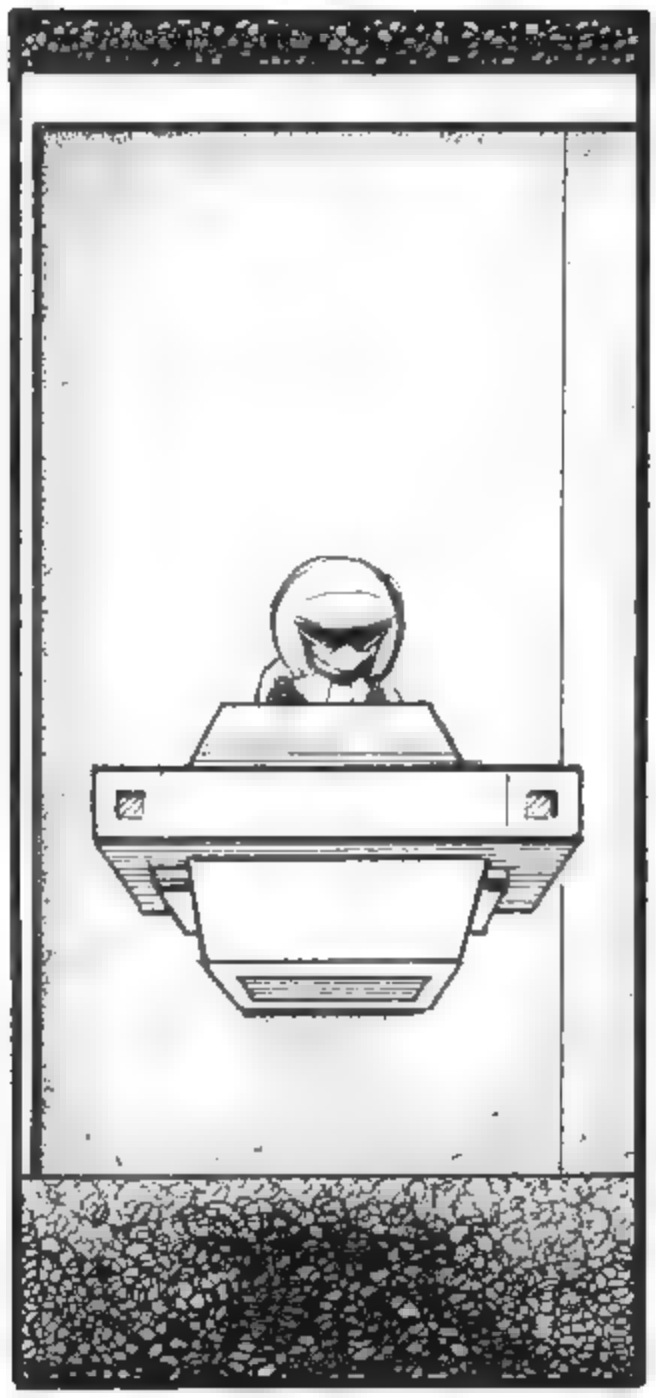
BUT I CAN'T.
BECAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT
SO, I'LL JUST SAY...
...THANK YOU.
AND SO IT BEGAN.


WANDERING STAR

GRAIKOR, WE'RE COMING UP ON PLANET KERRIS.
VERY GOOD, ELLI.
PUT IT ON THE MAIN VIEW-SCREEN.

THERE SHE IS, MADISON.
KERRIS.


ALL RIGHT, MADISON...
...IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.

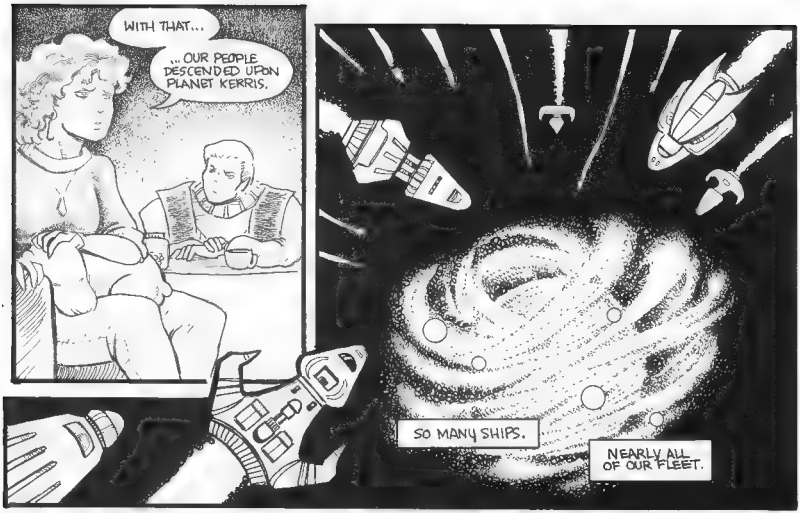


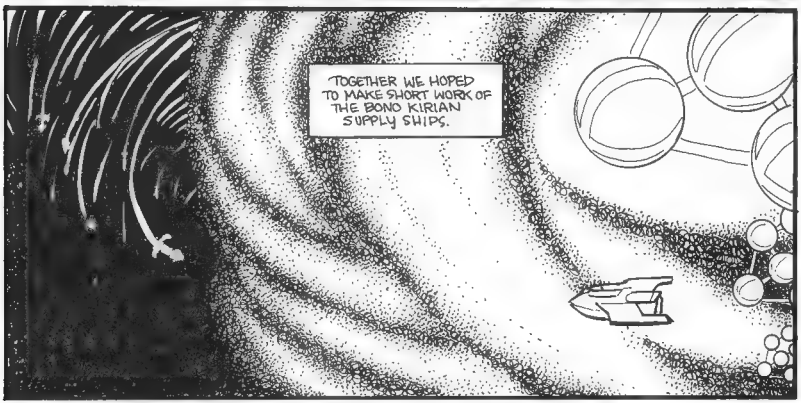
I...
...DON'T FEEL ANYTHING.

NOTHING?
ARE YOU SURE?

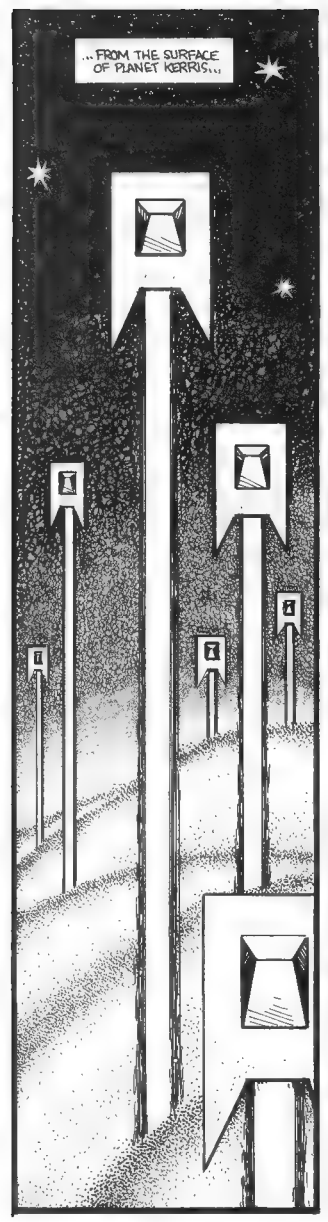
THERE'S...
....
NO.
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING OUT THERE.
JUST THE EMOTIONS OF OUR PEOPLE BEHIND US.

YES!
ELLI!..
CONTACT THE FLEET AND TELL THEM THAT THE ATTACK IS ON!

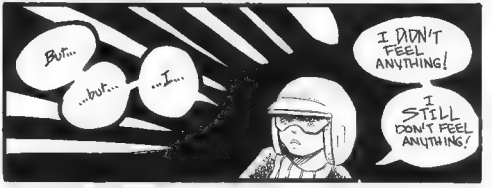

WITH THAT...
...OUR PEOPLE DESCENDED UPON PLANET KERRIS.
SO MANY SHIPS.
NEARLY ALL OF OUR FLEET.


TOGETHER WE HOPED TO MAKE SHORT WORK OF THE BONO KIRIAN SUPPLY SHIPS.

BUT THEN...


...FROM THE SURFACE OF PLANET KERRIS...

What the...?!!!


But...
...but...
...I...
I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING!
I STILL DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!

IT'S A TRAP!
ELLI!
TELL THE FLEET TO RETREAT!!

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

THE BONO KIRO HAD PLANNED THEIR ATTACK PERFECTLY.
WE WERE SURROUNDED.
JUST...
...JUST TAKE OUT AS MANY AS YOU CAN.
CASI! WATCH OUR BACK!
I'M TRYING, GRAT!
THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM!
IEEE!
SHHAA
KA-KA-KOW!
CASI?!

MY HAIR'S STUCK!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

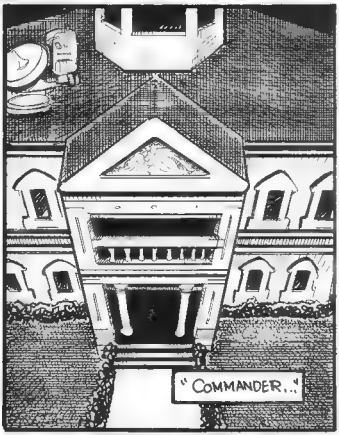
ELLI — TRANSFER WEAPONS TO THE OPEN SECTION OF THE MAIN PANEL!

GRAI...?!!
GRAIKOR LEAPT BETWEEN ME AND THE PANEL.
IT SNAPPED AND CRACKLED BEHIND US...

...AS ELLI'S WARNING RANG IN MY EARS.
MY BRAID WAS TAKING SO LONG TO CUT.
I WAS COLD WITH FEAR...
...BUT, GRAKOR...
...HE...
...HE JUST LOOKED SAD.

THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLACK.

EARTH.



IT SOILS THE HEART OF THE GAME.
WITH EARTH NEUTRALIZED, SIR, I DOUBT WE WILL.
THESE... "OTHERS"...
YES.
THERE IS ONE OTHER THING, SIR.
AMONG THE SHIPS WE'VE CAPTURED, THERE IS ONE CALLED WANDERING STAR.
REALLY?
HOW AMUSING.
OH, DEAR.

...TOOO!
JEEZ!
MY HEAD!
CASANDRA!
IS EVERYBODY ELSE OKAY?
GRAI...!
MADISON!
COM'ON! WAKE UP!
Huh?
What?
Where?
MADISON! I NEED YOU TO GO LOOK AT GRAIKOR.
I GOTTA GET TO THE CONTROLS!
TOOM KLANK KREEK TOOOM!
WHAT?
THE BOND KIRO!
THEY'VE LOCKED TRACTOR-BEAMS ON US!
SO... CAN YOU GET TO GRAIKOR WITHOUT YOUR CHAIR?
YEAH.
NO PROBLEM.
GOOD.

IS GRAIKOR OKAY?
MADISON'S GOT HIM, ELLI. HE'LL BE FINE.
LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
SHOW ME THE BAD GUYS!
...CASANDRA...
LET'S TEACH THESE BOZOS NOT TO MESS WITH THE WANDERINGSTAR!
what?
ELLI! WHERE'S WEAPONS?
CASI...
...THE DAMAGE....
WE DON'T HAVE WEAPONS.
WE DON'T HAVE ENGINES EITHER
IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP ENVIRONMENTAL UP.
DON'T WORRY, GRAIKOR. I GOT YOU.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING!
I'M... SORRY, CASANDRA.
GRAI...?
NO.
I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS!
THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING!
NO.
NO...
...Please...

MS. CASANDRA?
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE.

"I'M FINE."

Wandering Thoughts

Box 549, El Centro, CA 92244-0549

Teri,

Hey, I bet that this is the first letter that you have received from a psychotic hillbilly with a broken heart. Well, the first fan letter anyways. I know how you Big City California Girls get around and break hearts, yes indeedy I do.

Anywho, nice little book you got there. Good story and character development, interesting art style. Who are your influences, by the by? A little Omaha, perhaps? Simple and elegant style to your lines, yet judiciously sophisticated use of shading and texture to my view. Is that zip-atone or are you insane enough to do all that feathering and cross-hatching and whatever-th' hell-y'all-call-it by hand?

A deli worker, huh? Working retail is a real bitch, ain't it? You wind up selling overpriced stuff to idiots who don't need it but just can't continue to suffer this mean old world a second longer without it, and you just want to set the place on fire, pull out a shotgun, and start screaming, "I'll show you the life of the mind, oh yes I shall!"

Nah, maybe that's just me. Anywho, I guess I should be writing something romantic or just unbelievably disturbing in this missive, see as to how that is my raison d'etre. Well, yeah, hoooooooyaaaahh, I sure did love that woman with all my heart, and I still do love her and want her to come back to me. (In the background, on hears the crackle of flames and the bark of a twelve-gauge going off.) Not a day goes by that I don't think of her a thousand times and softly say her name a hundred times. I remember her tears upon my chest and the power of her kiss. I, at one and the same time, cry and smile.

Now for something completely different,

K-Man
Mountains of the Moon
Hearts of the World

???
Wait, aren't you supposed to be writing to Dave Sim? This sounds like a CEREBUS letter ta me.

And, yeah, I AM insane enough to do all that stuff by hand. Thanks for noticing.

* * * * * * * *

Happy Birthday, Teri!

How have you been doing? I hope you have some kind of life left after the busy schedule of self-publishing.

So, how are things with WANDERING STAR? I just got issue #6. That helped me decide which birthday card to buy for you; I thought the cat on it bore a slight resemblance to Oliver the proofreading cat.

"Dissapointed." My spell-checker catches it. Don't feel bad. I made mistakes in "Strom's Index." For instance, when I said that Dolph Lundqren, in "Duh Punisher" movie, shot about 5 pounds of lead in bullets, I should have said 50. One lousy little zero. Shoulda made it a ratio.

Say, you want this to be a BIG HIT?!?!? Okay, give Casandra some awesome mutant powers. Then put her into a neat costume that she wears into physical combat, but for some reason, the costume doesn't need to protect her legs, so the costume is of the thong-bikini style. Oh yeah, increase her bust line several inches. And give Graikor sharper, longer claws to GUT the EVIL Boki!!! And give Joey angst. Lots of really angsty angst about nothing in particular. And have crossovers. Maybe Bone or Cerebus can show up, shooting with BIG GUNS.

I always look forward to getting my WANDERING STAR fix. Casandra is having to grow up fast in wartime. She seems to have a lot of emotion bottled up inside. I get the feeling that a lot of her friends aren't going to make it.

I notice that Bosnia is mentioned in a letter in issue #6. Yeah, we'll hear a lot about Bosnia. nasty war. But we won't hear much about the slaughter in Haiti. They did have a teeny little article in last Saturday's SLAM Jose Mercury News-on page 21A. Nicely buried, guys. Of course, we Americans are just too blasted fragile to hear about hundreds (probably thousands) of people slaughtered, women systematically raped (sounds familiar, doesn't it?) and small children kidnaped and held for ransom by the ruling Haiti military. We are too fragile to hear that it is US money that keeps the Haiti military afloat, that if the Pentagon and Bill Clinton said to them, "Look, if you don't stop the slaughter, the only bullets you are going to get are the ones that we are going to pump into your murderous, rotten, little brains," the slaughter would stop faster than you could say "Ollie North." But there is that nice boycott the US has. To which Noam Chomsky would say, "What boycott?" You se, the boycott exempts any trade by the US corporations, which means that they can continue to get that nice slave labor, which means that the rich Haiti elite still gets the nice load of cash, which means that there ain't no boycott. A boycott might work if it existed.

I seem to by flying off on a political tangent. Let me get back on track by saying that Casandra does not seem to be having a good time during the battle scenes, which is proper. (Gee, I thought war was supposed to be FUN, like in G.I. Joe, Yo Joe! Nobody ever gets hurt because all of our jets have a computer chip that bails out the pilot one second before the jet is blown up by enemy fire!) Joey did learn a lesson, coming so close to being blown up.

I seem to be flying off on another tangent. Or maybe the same tangent. Well, this is Wandering Thoughts, isn't it? No one draws nicer hair or brighter smiles than Teri Wood. Few draw facial expressions as expressively subtle, but expressively expressive. Your art gets better and better. You do

expressions as expressively subtle, but expressively expressive. Your art gets better and better. You do really cool stuff with faces, yeah, cool, huh huh huh, huh huh, huh huh huh huh, yeah, heh heh, heh heh heh heh, that was cool. (Hmm, maybe I shouldn't watch Beavis and Butthead when I am writing letters.)

Hey! Silver wasn't in #6!

I am anxious to see future developments. I suspect that some POWs are going to show up. Including a certain bully whose attitude has likely been adjusted a tad. And just what is going on back on occupied Earth?

See you in Slam Jose at the ALTERNATIVE PRESS EXPO.

Number of minutes of fame I had: 15

Number that Teri should have: A whole bunch more, along with more $$$.

Dave Strom
2050 Royal Drive, #32
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Hey, thanks mucho, Strom-Man! Boy, weren't those the good old days?

For those of ya who never got ta see all that crazy stuff we used to do in the old AMAZING HEROES, wander down to the old comic shop and ask for a "Fantagraphic" AMAZING HEROES issue. Maybe they'll still have a few lying around.

And, by GOSH, you're right! I forgot to sneak Silver--heck, anybody--in the last issue of WANDERING STAR. And I did it this issue, too! Man, am I losing it, or what? I promise ta sneak a WHOLE buncha people in the next issue. Maybe even a Cerebus and a Fone Bone with bazookas. Heh heh heh.

* * * * * * * *

Dear Teri,

I was going to ask you if you were really named after a horse. (Honest I was. Really. Don't you believe me?) But if you're not going to tell, I'll just sit here in the corner and sulk. Sulk sulk sulk. Hmmm. . . hang on, I'd better bring something to do. . . where did I put those WANDERING STAR issues? Hey, if you can't be entertained while you're sulking, what's the point?

Every time I read an issue of WANDERING STAR, I rediscover how wonderful it is. Poor Lindi. As nasty as she was, she certainly didn't deserve to die like that. (Not that I mean to imply that anyone "deserves" to die; she was just more sympathetic in death than she was in life.) But war is never fun, which is perhaps one of the points you're making. The contrast between Casi's mood in the first half of #4 and the attack on the Academy made the violence feel all the more brutal. Your art is as good as ever. . . I love Casi's series of expressions on the top of page 7.
It took me a couple of moments to figure out the last few pages of #5, until I realized that Casi, coming from an environmentally ravaged planet, has never experienced rain before. That's one of the (many) things I like about WANDERING STAR: things aren't always spelled out immediately. So many times I'll be reading this book and something in it will make me stop and think.

Your lettering is terrific. The emotions really come through, for example, the top of page 18 where Casi says, "Like hell!" See? Printed out like this in this letter, it just isn't the same. It's great to see such creative lettering, and it works so well with the art, too.

I'm still a little confused about what the Bono Kiro have done with the Academy. Have they actually occupied it, or did they just attack and then leave, to make their point? The revelation that the Bono Kiro had taken Earth stunned me. I don't know what the Alliance is going to do without Earth. They're in deep shit, that's for sure. It doesn't even surprise me that there is no unity within the Alliance itself; if aliens were to invade, say, China, an awful lot of countries would make excuses not to get involved ("It's not our problem," "We can't afford to do anything," "We have enough problems here at home," "If we make peace with them, they won't bother us."--for that matter, it's the kinds of attitudes that many people had in reaction to World War II and the Holocaust). I like it; it's an effective way of giving realism to the universe where the story takes place. WANDERING STAR is packed with so many rich, subtle, complex flavors-a bouquet, even. Jeez, now I'm comparing it to wine! I'd better quit before I start designing a menu to go with it . . .

Sincerely,
Steven Zwanger
240 Mercer St. #1009
New York, NY 10012

Oh, great. Now I'm hungry. What kinda wine goes with pizza, does anyone know?

* * * * * * * *

Teri,

I just received your reply to my letter inquiring about back issues of WANDERING STAR.

I'm sorry to say that you wasted a stamp. I couldn't wait any longer so I went out armed with Kit Kat bars and bribed my way to getting issues 1-6. I have to say that calorie for calorie, this was the best investment in a comic I've made in a long time.

I know your just sitting around without much to do (yeah, right!), so I'm going to give you the whole story of my introduction into the world of WANDERING STAR.

The first time I heard about your book was in a small article in HERO ILLUSTRATED (issue 8 or 9). It gave a nice review and the address for back issues. That's when I wrote you the original letter. Within a day or so I saw an ad in CBW saying how great WANDERING STAR is.

At that point I said I better check this out. I went to my local comic shop to ask about WANDERING STAR and I got lucky. Right there on the table with current comics was the last copy of issue 6! I asked the guys in the store about the book and they said they also read it and it's great.

I also inquired about back issues, they said they should have the first 5 issues in stock somewhere. I have to be honest, before I committed to the other 5 issues I wanted to read #6 first. So I went home and read issue 6.

Right after I finished it, I got in my car and went back to get issues 1-5!!! I had to know more about all these wonderful characters that Casi was talking about.

And right there is my biggest reason for enjoying this book. These are some of the most interesting, well-developed characters I've come across in a long time. I actually care about what's happening/will happen to them. So far, through 6 issues, everything has flowed nicely and you see the characters, especially Casi growing and learning from their experiences. Casi

started as a scared little girl coming to the academy in issue 1, who is now confident enough to pull Joey's butt out of the fire in issue 6.

Graikor is also a wonderfun character because he knows the right time to say what's needed. He also knows when people need to work things out for themselves. I see a lot of the Luke Skywalker/Obiwan Kenobi relationship between Casi and Graikor.

Madison is a different story. I kinda feel sorry for him because his ability to feel others pain really affects him. But I think he's beginning to realize that he has true friends who care about him on the WANDERING STAR, and not people who see him as just the 'psychic guy'.

There are also a lot of other reasons to enjoy this comic. Here's my Top Ten reasons:

#10. I have another B&W comic to read beside ZEN.
#9. The covers. (Why have so many people complained about the covers!)
#8. Giving the little guy, whoops, gal a chance.
#7. Books are shipped on time! (Hear that Liefeld & Co.)
#6. Price. I couldn't believe this was only 2 bucks!!!
#5. Bone cameo in Ish 5.
#4. There's still 6 issues yet to come!!!
#3. The art. (I love your backgrounds.)
#2. Putting pictures of missing kids on your covers. (Do we really need more Ads for X-Ray specs!)
And the #1 reason is . . . The Publisher is named after a horse!!!?

Well, I think I've rambled on enough about the first 6 issues. I'm anxiously awaiting issue 7 and beyond.

Good luck with your future endeavors. I hope to come along for the ride.

Sincerely,
Jeff Melillo
296 Essex Ave.
Blommfield, NY 07003

P.S. I want you to know that WANDERING STAR has been added to my special collection of comics that I have to re-read 1 or 2 times a year. It joins Frank Miller's DARK KNIGHT, Peter David's HULK: FUTURE IMPERFECT, and Alan Moore's KILLING JOKE among others.

P.S.S. Did you happen to sign any issue #1s before they were shipped? The issue I picked up from my comic dealer sure looks like it might be signed?

Wow, that's quite a list! Thank you, I'm flattered!

And actually, I've signed hundreds--if not thousands--of WANDERING STARs, so yeah, you probably got one there. I was signing just about everything for a while. It was just such a kick doing it, ya know? Of course, it is a little impractical nowadays. Ah, well. There's always the conventions.

And I keep hearing about this comic ZEN. I'm going to have to locate some copies when I go to the San Diego Convention this year.

Oh, and while I'm on the subject of comics, I just finished reading a whole buncha copies of POISON ELVES and loved'em. Drew Hayes, the creator, sent'em to me with a warning that I'd probably only like them if I had a twisted sense of humor, so now I'm worried for my sanity.

Another book you might want to look into is GRAYMATTER. This book just gets better with every issue. Check it out.

* * * * * * * *

Dear Teri,

Please send me issues 7-12 of WANDERING STAR. I have extremely enjoyed reading the first half of the series. You are an excellent story-teller.

By the way, I just saw ANCIENT PROPHECIES, the television special that talks about the end of the world. I also noticed that your series ends in 1995. So I realize that I'm taking a big chance by sending you my $15.00, because I may never see the series end. But here is my check anyway. Let's just say I like to live on the edge. Either that or I have the utmost faith that you will finish the series, even if we are underwater. Thanks.

Sincerely,
Dave Vellanoweth
6362 Shawnee Road
Westminster, CA 92683

Wait, wait, wait! What was that??? End of the world? Under water? Are you trying ta tell me that I've spent the last twelve months living like a hermit to get this gosh darn series offa the ground and the world ends BEFORE I FINISH IT???

This is a real bummer.

* * * * * * * *

Dear Teri,

It's your middle name, right? I mean, I never heard of any horses named Teri or Wood, but you always write your name "Teri S. Wood," and the main spokes-character in your old AMAZING HEROES strip "The Cartoonist" (which I always used to read before the Page of Funny Statistics the Author Made Up, by some guy whose name I've forgotten) was called Silver (and usually accompanied by the "winged" talking word Wood), so I just assumed that your middle initial must stand for "Silver". Which is also the name of the Lone Ranger's horse, although that had never occurred to me until you made that crack about having been named after one (a horse, that is). Of course, <u>why</u> this happened (if it isn't a complete coincidence--e.g., your mom's maiden name is Silver and there was no thought of the Lone Ranger's faithful steed when your parents were deciding what to put on your birth certificate) I have no idea. Although, I used to know a family in which the father was a stockbroker and the two oldest kids were middle-named after blue chip stocks (Shari Steel for U.S. Steel and Bela Standard for Standard Oil, to be exact). Well, at least if I'm totally wrong about this, I've thought up a perfectly useless new origin for the first name of Bruce Wayne's old Englehart-era girlfriend, Silver St. Cloud, assuming she still exists.

By the way, I think the main drawback of the title-and-starscape-only covers was not so much that they looks so much unlike everything else on the racks as that they looked so much like each other. In fact, I almost didn't buy issue #2 at all because its cover was so virtually identical to #1's that when I first saw it I thought that it <u>was</u> #1, which I already had. Fortunately, now that you've started varying the color scheme and background slice of Milky Way this is much less of a problem.

Nice job on issues #5 and 6, especially the cafeteria scene in #5.

Margaret O'Connell
272 First Ave, Apt 5G
New York, NY 10009

Hah. You know, that just makes all the sense in the world. It really does, Margaret. I am impressed, I really, really am. Give

that woman a Kit Kat bar. But, no cigar, Hon.

Okay, everybody ready? 'Cuz here it comes . . .

THE NOT QUITE UNBELIEVABLE YET TRUE STORY OF HOW TERI S. WOOD WAS NAMED AFTER A HORSE!!!!

It all started a long time ago on a planet far, far away . . .

Sorry. Just couldn't help myself.

Anyway, the story, okay.

Mom and I were sitting around the house one day and I asked her, "Mom, was I named after anybody?"

She regarded me for a minute and said, "Why do you ask, Teri?"

"Well," I said, "Toby was named after a football player and Mary was named after you, so I was wondering, ya know? Was I named after anybody?"

There was a long pause. "Sort of."

"'Sort of'?"

"You were named after a horse."

"A HORSE??? I was named after a HORSE? I don't believe this! How come I'm named after a horse?"

And so my mom, forever calm, told me the story. You see, my dad was quite a gambler in his day, and one evening while he was in bed reading the racing paper next to his very pregnant wife, he suddenly said, "Hey, look, Dear! There's a horse named 'Teri Sue'! What a pretty name! If we have a girl, we'll call her that."

And that's how it happened.

"Wait a minute," I said. "That's it? Isn't there some happy ending where Dad played a fiver on "Teri Sue" and won a bundle or something?"

"No, he didn't bet anything on her. He said she was a lousy horse, but she had a pretty name."

"Oh, great."

So, that's the story, kiddies. Inspiring, isn't it?

Ya'll go to sleep now and have pleasant dreams.

See ya next issue!

P.S. I should'a said this in my editorial, but I forgot.

If any of you wrote me a letter recently and didn't get a response, never fear, I still love ya'll, I've just sorta been swamped with letters lately.

Anyway, please forgive me, I do love your letters, but I've had to put my work on WANDERING STAR first. It's tough being a little self-publisher sometimes.

Bye!

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"Very nice work you got there, Buddy!. Bravo! This is a keeper!"-
Teri S. Wood

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ANARCHY PRESS
Doctor Faustus

A Little Pictorial Story About Those 1400+ Wandering Star Sets!

YEP, A STORY! Whee! YA SEE, WHEN I GOT IN MY ORDERS FOR THESE SETS I DISCOVERED I WAS RUNNING SEVERAL HUNDRED COPIES SHORT ON ISSUES TWO thru SIX. SO, I CALLED BRENNER FOR REPRINTS and TOLD THE DISTRIBUTORS I'D SIGN ALL COPIES THAT WEREN'T THE PRINTING ORIGINALLY OFFERED IN THE CATALOG. Whew!

THE REPRINTS ARRIVE AT THE WOOD HOUSE FROM BRENNER PRINTING!

I START SIGNING BOOKS.

MOM STARTS PACKAGING BOOKS.

BASHA ~ the Other Cat ~ DECIDES TO LEND A HELPING HAND!

I CONTINUE TO SIGN BOOKS.

BASHA CONTINUES TO HELP MOM.

I START TO GET REALLY SICK OF SIGNING BOOKS.

The End. Heh.

Ah, the Glamorous Life of the Comic Book Self-Publisher!

THE Wandering Star SUPER SCHEDULE!

Please Note Schedule Changes on Books Eight & Nine.

1994!

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
WANDERING STAR BOOK #5		WANDERING STAR BOOK #6	Happy BIRTHDAY TO ME! (APRIL 21st)	WANDERING STAR BOOK #7 oops	

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
	WANDERING STAR BOOK #8		WANDERING STAR BOOK #9	WANDERING STAR BOOK #10	

1995!

JANUARY	FEBURARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
WANDERING STAR BOOK #11		WANDERING STAR #12 Last Issue!			

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July 1995...

Darklight

A new limited series

by Teri S. Wood

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NAME: ROSADO JESSICA BENITEZ
D.O.B.: January 14, 1978
HEIGHT: 5'6" WEIGHT: 120#
I.D. MARKS: Light scar on cheek near temple. Pregnant at time of disappearance.

EYE COLOR: Brown HAIR: Light Brown/Curly/Shoulder Length
DATE MISSING: October 11, 1993
MISSING FROM: Brooklyn, New York
REPORT TYPE: Missing Juvenile
L.E.A.: New York Police Department - Precinct 76
New York, NY PHONE: (718)834-3221

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Rosado was staying with an aunt in Brooklyn, New York and on 10/11/93 she left. She has not been seen or heard from since that time. She may possibly be in the Brooklyn, New York area, or she may have traveled to the Springfield, Massachusetts area. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Rosado Jessica Benitez, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the New York Police Department, Precinct 76, New York, New York, or the Missing Children...HELP Center.

NCIC #M-581932488

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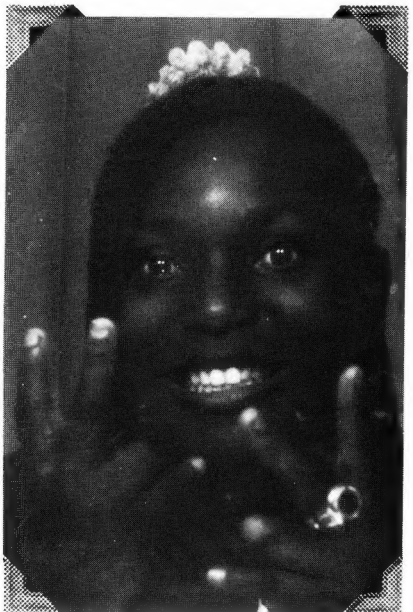

NAME: NICOLE KAYE NEELY - "NICKKI"
D.O.B.: July 10, 1976
HEIGHT: 4'10" WEIGHT: 90/100#
I.D. MARKS: Wears glasses with brown frames.

EYE COLOR: Brown HAIR: Brown/Weaved
DATE MISSING: November 18, 1993
MISSING FROM: Long Beach, California
REPORT TYPE: Missing Juvenile
L.E.A.: Long Beach Police Department
Long Beach, CA PHONE: (213)590-7301

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Nicole left home saying she was disowning her family because she did not want to follow the rules of the home. She has been seen in the Long Beach, California area. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Nicole Kaye Neely, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the Long Beach Police Department, Long Beach, California, or the Missing Children...HELP Center.

NCIC #M-689532008